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THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 71/NO. 23 JUNE 11, 2007

INSIDE

Alabama civil rights case reopened after 42 years

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‘They can’t deport us all!’

Ohio workers protest immigration sweep



Hola/Mauricio Ortega

More than 300 people marched and rallied May 21 in Painesville, Ohio, to protest the arrests of 24 people in a sweep by immigration cops the previous weekend. Similar raids took place in at least three other states—Colorado, Georgia, and Missouri.

BY MAURA DE LUCA

PAINESVILLE, Ohio, May 27—Agents of the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raided working-class neighborhoods and factories in at least three states last week, provoking protests by immigrant workers and their supporters.

More than 300 people marched from St. Mary’s Catholic Church here May 21 to protest the arrest of 24 people during a sweep by immigration cops the previous weekend.

Holding banners reading, “They can’t deport us all,” and “We come to work and feed our children,” the protesters marched to City Hall. There,

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Congress OKs $100 billion for wars in Iraq, Afghanistan; Bush signs bill

BY SAM MANUEL

WASHINGTON, May 29—With large bipartisan majorities, the U.S. Congress passed May 24 a $100 billion war appropriations bill to fund Washington’s wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. U.S. president George Bush signed it into law the next day.

The bill passed after the Democratic majority in the Senate and House of Representatives dropped schemes to tie the funding to deadlines for redeploying U.S. troops in Iraq. Bush vetoed such a bill May 1. Democrats have used the “debate” to posture as “antiwar,” while funding the imperialist wars.

The new bill ties a small amount of “reconstruction aid” to benchmarks the Iraqi government is supposed to meet, measuring Baghdad’s progress in reconciling Shiite and Sunni capitalist forces vying for greater control of the country’s oil. It also contains a loophole allowing Bush to spend the money regardless of whether any benchmarks are met.

Democrats tried to shake off responsibility for the bill’s passage to the president’s veto. “Like it or not, we ran out of options,” said Rep. David Obey, a Wisconsin Democrat and chairman

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Workers in Georgia town respond to raid by ‘la migra’

BY RACHELE FRUIT

CARROLLTON, Georgia, May 29—Workers here are discussing a May 24 raid and roadblocks set up by the federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the Carroll County Sheriff’s Department. This town of 21,000 people is in an industrial center that includes poultry and meat processing, sewing, lumber, and auto parts plants.

At dawn on May 24, ICE agents and Carroll County sheriffs raided the Lawrence Trailer Park here, many workers in the area told the *Militant.* The cops claimed they were looking for someone involved in selling drugs. Workers at the trailer park reported seeing up to four white vans bearing the federal agents and five sheriff patrol cars.

Workers at BBI, a nearby sewing plant in Bowdon where this reporter works, immediately started receiving phone calls from family members and friends to inform and warn them about the raid.

This reporter visited the trailer park after work that day along with fellow workers to talk to people affected by the raid.

Everyone interviewed asked to be identified by their first names only, or to be cited anonymously, for fear of retalia-

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Immigrant worker killed by N.Y. cop

Hundreds in Bronx demand officer be jailed

BY RÓGER CALERO

BRONX, New York, May 29—Working people in this city have joined protests over the past week, demanding that the cop who shot and killed Fermín Arzú, 41, an Afro Honduran worker, be jailed.

More than 100 people attended Arzú’s funeral on May 26—along with relatives, local politicians, and others—to condemn his killing and demand the prosecution of police officer Raphael Lora, who fatally shot Arzú on the night of May 18.

“We are tired of pain. We want justice,” said Katherine Arzú, 20, Fermín’s daughter, speaking at the funeral.

Earlier that day, about 100 people attended the weekly morning rally organized by the National Action Network in Harlem, hosted by Rev. Alfred Sharpton. It was a protest against Arzú’s killing. Sharpton shared the platform with members of the Arzú family and Nicole Paultre-Bell, fiancée of Sean Bell, an African American worker who was killed in a hail of 50 bullets by New York cops last November.

Arzú worked as a building porter. At around 11:40 p.m. on May 18, after drop-

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U.S. gov’t tightens sanctions on Sudan

BY SAM MANUEL

WASHINGTON, May 30—President George Bush announced tighter U.S. sanctions against Sudan yesterday. He also said Washington will press the United Nations Security Council to impose similar sanctions, an expanded arms embargo, and establish a “no fly zone” against the Sudanese military over the country’s Darfur region.

The British government has said it will back Washington’s effort. But Moscow and Beijing, which are also members of the Security Council, have

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U.S. mine agency won’t cite bosses for ‘root causes’ of Sago disaster

BY TONY LANE

PITTSBURGH, May 28—Stronger seals, proper methane monitoring, and the removal of a pump from a sealed area underground could have prevented the Sago Mine disaster in West Virginia, concluded a report issued by federal investigators May 9.

The Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) report identified these as “root causes” that, if eliminated, “could have mitigated the severity of the accident or prevented the loss of life.”

MSHA officials, however, did not cite or fine the mine’s owner, International Coal Group (ICG), for these problems—

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Over 2,600 new ‘Militant’ readers!

BY RÓGER CALERO

May 30—The *Militant’s* spring subscription drive was a resounding success. As of the final tally tonight, 2,623 people had subscribed, way over the international goal of 2,400.

Among supporters who took goals in 26 cities around the world, 24 made or surpassed their quotas. In many places workers and youth who are new to the paper got involved in the circulation effort for the first time.

The May Day mobilizations across the United States to demand legalization of undocumented immigrants were the

Continued on page 4

‘Militant’ fund over top!

Appeal extended 1 week to meet unanticipated costs

BY OLYMPIA NEWTON

May 30—*Militant* supporters sent in more than $25,000 last week, putting the paper’s fund drive over the $100,000 goal.

“We want to build on this success,” said *Militant* editor Argiris Malapanis. “The fund appeal is extended one week to meet unanticipated expenses, including steep price increases by the U.S. Post Office.”

The postal hikes include a 54 percent

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Also Inside:

Socialist candidate on ballot in Boston election



Militant/John Hawkins

William Estrada (left), a meat packer and Socialist Workers Party candidate for City Council At-Large in Boston, campaigns May 5 at a street festival in that city.

BY JOHN HAWKINS

BOSTON—The Socialist Workers Party campaign here got word May 16 from the Boston Elections Department that William Estrada, SWP candidate for City Council At-Large, is certified to be on the ballot in the primary election in September.

The news came after an eight-day petitioning effort in which 1,300 registered voters, more than double the 500 required, signed their names to put the socialist candidate on the ballot. SWP campaign supporters distributed the socialist platform throughout the city—from the Black communities of Roxbury and Dorchester, to South Boston, East Boston, and a big street festival in Jamaica Plains. During petitioning, 15 people also subscribed to the *Militant*.

The Boston SWP ticket also includes Betsy Farley, who is running for City Council District 1 as a write-in.

Estrada is a meat packer and Farley is a sewing machine operator and member of UNITE HERE Local 187.

Both candidates spoke at a Militant Labor Forum here May 12, at the end of the petitioning effort. Several workers from East Boston, where the campaign headquarters is located, attended the event.

Following presentations by the candidates a lively discussion ensued. Questions included: How did unions in the United States become as weak as they are today? What do socialists mean when they talk of transforming them and how can that be done? How can working-class political action independent of the capitalist parties be advanced, as the candidates indicated?

Estrada explained that at the center of the SWP campaign is support for workers' struggles to organize trade unions and to use and extend union power to defend themselves and other working people from the bosses' assaults. "We must break from the twin parties of the capitalist rulers—the Democrats and Republicans—and build a labor party based on the unions that fights in the interests of working people here and abroad," he emphasized.

The SWP also calls for the immediate, unconditional withdrawal of U.S. and all "coalition" troops from Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia, and all the theaters of Washington's "war on terrorism," the socialist candidate pointed out.

"Today the main obstacle the U.S. rulers face to their wars abroad and profit drive at home is resistance by working people," Estrada said. Actions like those by workers in New Bedford, Massachusetts, to protest an immigration raid at the Michael Bianco leather plant and the May Day demonstrations here and across the country to press for legalization of the undocumented point to demands the labor movement must champion, he said.

"It's along this road that working people can strengthen the unions and chart a course toward a break with not only the Democrats and Republicans but all capitalist parties, and toward building an independent labor party," Farley added.

On May 19 Estrada and a supporter joined more than 100 people at the 20th annual Malcolm X awards and memorial breakfast sponsored by the Roxbury-based Black Community Information Center and Roxbury Community College.

Workers will bear brunt of Chrysler breakup

BY SAM MANUEL

WASHINGTON, May 21—Through the sale of its Chrysler component just nine years after acquiring the U.S. company, German automaker Daimler-Benz is seeking to off-load $18 billion in health-care and pensions it would owe current and retired employees organized by the United Auto Workers (UAW) union.

UAW president Ronald Gettelfinger backed the sale in a May 14 statement, saying it "is in the best interests of our membership, the Chrysler Group and Daimler." A month earlier Gettelfinger vowed the union would fight the sale because a private investor would "strip and flip" the company, selling its most valuable parts for a quick profit. The sale of Chrysler to the private equity investment outfit Cerberus Capital Management sets the stage for a new round of assaults on autoworkers. It also comes as the UAW prepares to enter contract negotiations this summer with the Big Three—Chrysler, General Motors, and Ford.

In February the merged company, DaimlerChrysler, announced it would cut 13,000 jobs and close all or part of four plants in its second restructuring. The same SUVs and trucks that generated huge profits for Chrysler in the 1990s became the source of equally large losses as gas prices surged in recent years. Last year 100,000 Chrysler vehicles piled up in storage lots, a big source of the company's $1.5 billion loss in 2006.

Cerberus, which paid $7.4 billion for an 80 percent controlling stake in Chrysler, specializes in profiting from investments in troubled companies through rigorous cost-cutting and operational controls.

Last year Cerberus bought a majority share in General Motor's financing arm and emerged at the head of an investment group to bring Delphi corporation out of bankruptcy. GM created Delphi as a separate company in 1999 from its former parts department. Cerberus announced it was pulling out of the Delphi deal after it could not reach agreement with the UAW on reduced wages and benefits.

Rationalizing his change of mind on the Chrysler sale at a May 14 press conference, Gettelfinger said the union had no choice because Cerberus was the only company discussed during a four-hour meeting with company executives in Stuttgart, Germany. "The decision was made before we ever got there," he said.

Cerberus chairman John Snow, former treasury secretary in the Bush administration, expressed his appreciation for Gettelfinger's support saying, "Cerberus has a good record of working with companies that are organized. We respect the role of organized labor. We appreciate the support the UAW has given."

Anthony Watson, an assembler at the Chrysler truck plant in Warren, Michigan, didn't see it that way. "It makes me real nervous," he told the *New York Times*.

The Militant

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Sweden, Finland, Norway, Denmark: Send 400 Swedish kronor for one year to Bildhuggarvägen 17, 12144 Johanneshov, Stockholm, Sweden.

New Zealand: Send NZ$50 to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand.

Australia: Send A$50 to P.O. Box 164 Campsie, NSW 2194, Australia.

Pacific Islands: Send NZ$50 to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand.

Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the Militant's views. These are expressed in editorials.

Sanctions against Sudan

Continued from front page

cautioned against it.

The new sanctions add 30 Sudanese-owned or -controlled companies to a list of 130 businesses already banned from access to the U.S. financial system. Three Sudanese individuals—two senior Sudanese government officials, and a rebel leader—will join a list of four people already under a U.S. travel ban and other restrictions.

In addition, Washington and London demand that Khartoum allow deployment of a 20,000-strong UN/African Union (AU) "peacekeeping" force into Darfur. Up to 7,000 AU troops are already there and 10,000 UN troops are in southern Sudan.

Washington and London have taken advantage of Khartoum's brutal repression of non-Arabic-speaking and non-Muslim's among Darfur's population to justify the imperialist-led intervention. According to the UN, some 300,000 people have been killed and 2 million displaced since a revolt led by the Sudanese Liberation Army and the Justice and Equality Movement began in the region in 2003. The peoples in Darfur face widespread discrimination.

Sudan has faced some form of U.S. sanctions since 1997. During the 1991 U.S.-led war against Iraq, the Sudanese government sided with Baghdad and voted in the United Nations to condemn Israeli aggression against the Palestinians. It had close ties with the Libyan government, considered at the time a "terrorist" state by Washington.

In 1993 the Clinton administration declared Sudan a "terrorist state," claiming Khartoum allowed Palestinian and Lebanese guerrillas to train on its soil.

Following the 1998 car bombings of the U.S. embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, Washington struck an industrial area of Khartoum with dozens of cruise missiles. A supposed "chemical weapons" factory destroyed by the missiles turned out to be a pharmaceutical plant.



U.S. troops at Djibouti base, used for operations in the Horn of Africa, including Sudan.

N.Y. cop killing

Continued from front page

ping off his fiancée, Thomasa Sabio, at her apartment in the Longwood area of the South Bronx, Arzú crashed his minivan into a parked car near Lora's home on Hewitt Place. According to police and press reports, Lora ran out of his home when he heard the crash, without his uniform and with his gun.

The police claim that Lora approached Arzú from the driver's side and asked for his driver's license and registration. They say Arzú reached into his glove compartment to search for his documents, then suddenly drove away, knocking Lora down. That's when Lora says he opened fire.

Several witnesses, however, said the officer never identified himself and that the van was moving slowly when Lora fired his weapon five times at Arzú. One of the bullets struck Arzú in his back and pierced his heart.

"The guy just opened fire, and then he just started running after the car," said a witness who asked not to be identified, according to the May 20 *New York Post*.

Marisol Medina, another witness, told the *Post* she came out of her home when she heard the crash and saw Lora running down the street after the minivan.

"The next thing you know, you see this guy running with a gun," said Medina. "Everybody was afraid. We thought he was running down to finish him off. He looked like a thug with a gun, in plainclothes."

"They are saying many things now, that he was drinking," said María Suazo, Arzú's niece, referring to a report stating that Arzú had a blood alcohol level of 0.17 at the time of the incident. "OK maybe that is true, but nobody has the right to take another life," Suazo told the May 26 rally in Harlem.

"Did they think we wouldn't care because he was an immigrant?" said Sharpton at the rally. "We want the family to know that the community is with them."

Nicole Paultre-Bell said she was there to support the Arzú family the same way the community came to-

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U.S. rulers accuse Tehran of interference in Iraq

BY MA'MUD SHIRVANI

May 29—U.S. officials used a highly publicized meeting with an Iranian government delegation in Baghdad two days ago to legitimize their charge that Tehran is fomenting violence in Iraq. At the same time, the U.S. naval fleet in the Arab-Persian Gulf conducted war games near Iranian waters, and Washington pushed to tighten sanctions against Iran.

Today, Tehran announced it is holding three Iranian Americans it has charged with "endangering national security" and "espionage." Many U.S. politicians and pundits used the news to call for canceling the talks with Tehran and taking harsher measures against Iran.

The Baghdad meeting between the two governments, the first since the 1979 Iranian revolution, reportedly focused on the spiraling violence in Iraq. Ryan Crocker, the U.S. ambassador to Iraq, told reporters after the meeting, "I laid out before the Iranians a number of our direct, specific concerns about their behavior in Iraq, their support for the militias that are fighting both the Iraqi security forces and coalition forces." Crocker repeated Washington's accusation that explosives and other munitions used by Iraqi militias come from people in Iran connected with the government, which Tehran has denied. Such activities must cease and "we would be looking for results," he said.

During the meeting, the U.S. Navy continued war games they had started five days earlier in the Gulf. They involve a large flotilla of U.S. warships, including two nuclear-powered aircraft carriers that sailed through the Straits of Hormuz May 23. The military maneuvers are to last two weeks.

The nine participating ships carry some 17,000 personnel and 140 aircraft. It is the largest movement of naval force in daylight hours in the Gulf since the 2003 invasion of Iraq.

On May 11, U.S. vice president Richard Cheney gave a speech on the deck of aircraft carrier John C. Stennis, 150 miles off Iran's coast, threatening Tehran and assuring pro-imperialist forces in the region. "We'll stand with others to prevent Iran from gaining nuclear weapons and dominating this region," he said.

Tehran insists its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes, aimed at meeting the country's growing energy needs.

As U.S. ships entered the Gulf for the war drill, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) issued a report detailing Iran's progress in enriching uranium in defiance of UN Security Council resolutions. "We believe they pretty much have the knowledge about how to enrich," said IAEA director Mohamed ElBaradei. "From now on, it is simply a question of perfecting that knowledge. People will not like to hear it, but that's a fact."

Washington immediately said it would use the IAEA report to get agreement for expanding the sanctions against Tehran that the UN Security Council previously authorized.

When Tehran announced May 29 it had charged three Iranian-Americans with spying and trying to destabilize the Islamic Republic, these threats escalated. The three are Parnaz Azima, a reporter for Radio Farda, a U.S.-sponsored station that broadcasts into the country; Haleh Esfandiari, the Middle East program director of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington; and Kian Tajbakhsh, a New York-based urban planner affiliated with George Soros's Open Society Institute.

Congress: $100 billion for wars

Continued from front page

of the House Appropriations Committee. "There has never been a chance of a snowball in Hades that Congress would cut off those funds to those troops in the field."

The bill passed in a 280-142 House vote, with 86 Democrats and 194 Republicans in favor. The Senate vote was 80-14, with 37 Democrats and 42 Republicans backing it.

In Iraq, U.S. and British troops battled the Mahdi militia, led by Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr. The fighting erupted May 25 in Baghdad and Basra, hours after Sadr made his first pubic speech in Iraq since January, a Friday sermon at a mosque in Kufa.

U.S. intelligence officials had claimed that Sadr fled to Iran in fear of his safety shortly after Bush's January 10 announcement that thousands of additional U.S. troops would be sent to Iraq to clamp down on militias such as Sadr's.

In addition to its militia, Sadr's forces hold 30 seats in the Iraqi parliament. Six of these deputies resigned in April from the cabinet of Iraq's prime minister Nouri Kamal al-Maliki, as the U.S. military stepped up operations against the militia.

Soon after Sadr's sermon, a team of Iraqi special forces and British troops reportedly killed Wissam Abu Qadir, head of the Sadr's Mahdi militia in Basra, along with three others. The killing led to a three-hour firefight as the militia responded.

Five Iraqis were killed in Sadr City May 26, when U.S. warplanes fired on the occupants of nine vehicles the Pentagon said were preparing to ambush U.S. troops that had just captured a militia leader. A local Mahdi spokesman said those killed were not members of the group and the vehicles had been lined up at a gas station since 5:00 a.m.

—CALENDAR—

CALIFORNIA

San Rafael

Legalization for All Now! Community meeting. Thurs., June 14, 6:30 p.m. Sponsored by Canal Community Assembly, People's Leadership Network, MITF Immigration Committee, Latin American Alliance for the Defense of Immigrants. *Canal Welcome Center, 141 Alto St. Tel.: (415) 526-2406.*

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

ALABAMA

Birmingham

U.S. Imperialism Targets Africa: No to Sanctions Against Sudan! Speaker: Clay Dennison, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., June 8. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. *3029 Bessemer Rd. Tel.: (205) 780-0021.*

IOWA

Des Moines

China and the World Today: A Working Class Perspective Speaker: Frank Forrestal, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., June 8. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. *3707 Douglas Ave. Tel.: (515) 255-1707.*

NEW JERSEY

Newark

From Somalia to Darfur: Imperialism Tightens Its Grip on Africa Fri., June 8, 8:00 p.m. *168 Bloomfield Ave. 2nd Fl. Tel.: (973) 481-0077.*

NEW YORK

New York

Capitalism's Economic Crisis: Wage Cuts, Debt Squeeze, Cuts In Social Services. What Road Forward for Working People? Speaker: Paul Pederson, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., June 8. Dinner, 7:00 p.m.; program, 8:00 p.m. *307 W. 36th St. 10th floor (use north elevators). Tel.: (212) 629-6649.*

Workers in Bay Area stand up to 'migra' raids

BY BETSEY STONE

SAN RAFAEL, California, May 28—After immigration police carried out raids here earlier this spring, supporters of immigrant rights in this northern Bay Area town fought back with marches, community meetings, and organization of aid to the targeted families.

"Legalization For All Now!" is the title of a flyer announcing the next activity, a June 14 public meeting sponsored by a coalition of community groups. (See calendar on page 3.) It will include a video showing on the May Day marches in defense of immigrant workers.

The raids here took place in the early morning on March 6 and 7, targeting large apartment buildings and houses in the Canal District, a neighborhood of mostly immigrant workers. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) cops arrested more than 60 people, including a seven-year-old whose father, a single parent, had nowhere to leave his son.

Opponents of the raids responded by gathering in the early morning in areas likely to be hit again. Starting at 5:00 a.m. on March 9, crowds of protestors, armed with flashlights, cameras, and signs saying, "Immigrants stay, ICE go away!" and "Migra, get out of our town!" stood watch in the Canal District and nearby Navoto, ready to show support for immigrant workers and to document what was happening if *la migra* returned.

Hundreds more protested the raids in demonstrations later in the day on March 9, March 12, and on May 1.

Neighbors of those arrested and others in the area told the *Militant* that when they saw the ICE police, or heard of their presence, they immediately spread the word, to warn others to stay off the streets and not to open their doors.

The protests were organized through the combined efforts of people active in two community centers—the Canal Welcome Center and the Canal Alliance—as well as in the Marin Interfaith Council, churches, and other groups.

Pointing to pictures of the demonstrations, as well as the march of 10,000 held on May Day in San Rafael a year ago, Douglas Mundo, executive director of the Welcome Center, notes that the enthusiastic participation of youth in these protests has been especially important.



Morning vigil in San Rafael, California, in March, one of many protests against ICE raids.

Immigrant worker killed by cop in New York

Continued from page 3

gether to support her.

Virtually everyone interviewed by the *Militant* in the area of the shooting, overwhelmingly workers, opposed Arzú's killing.

"There is no justification for this," said Catalina, a worker at a laundromat who asked that her last name not be used. "You can't kill somebody because they crashed into a car parked on the street. The policeman who shot Fermín should go to jail. This cop is known for such problems before."

The neighborhood where Arzú was killed is mixed. It includes many African Americans and a growing number of immigrants, primarily from Mexico and Central America. The latter include thousands of Garífunas—like Arzú—descendents of Amerindians and Africans who live on the Atlantic Coast, between Belize and Nicaragua. Most speak English, along with their own Creole, and some speak Spanish too.

Reactions among African Americans were mixed. While most opposed the shooting, some were influenced by anti-immigrant prejudices peddled by the media and capitalist politicians. "There was no reason to do that," said a retiree, who identified himself only as Edward, referring to Arzú's killing. He added, "A lot of us can't get jobs, not even welfare. And they bring all these people, because they can pay them little, and we are left out."

Clara Monroe Brown, a retired public employee, said Arzú's shooting was unjustified. She was also somewhat resentful at the "cultural practices" of the Garífunas. She lives around the corner from Dawson Street and Rev. James A. Polite Avenue, where dozens of Garífunas socialize on weekends around a grocery store, a music club, and a park. "Sometimes on weekends many of them hang out by the club and play music, loud," Monroe said. "One time I called the police on them because they kept going with the music at 2:00 a.m. But the cops did not do anything."

Others, like Rosalind McCullough, a cook in the military, said Blacks have no problems with the immigrants. "We are in the same boat," she said.

Outside the bodega at Dawson and Polite, a dozen Garífunas said they have good relations with neighbors. "We come here to work," said Pedro Suazo, a hotel worker. "We don't bother anybody. I knew Fermín. He was a peaceful man, just like us. The problem is the police. They treat us like foreigners, like animals, not like human beings."

Argiris Malapanis and Don Mackle contributed to this article.

2,600 new 'Militant' readers!

Spring 'Militant' Subscription Drive
March 31–May 27 ♦ Final chart

Country	Quota	Sold	%
ICELAND	12	14	117%
NEW ZEALAND	60	66	110%
AUSTRALIA	45	49	109%
CANADA	130	142	109%
SWEDEN	35	38	109%
UNITED KINGDOM			
Edinburgh	30	34	113%
London	75	78	104%
UK Total	105	112	107%
UNITED STATES			
San Diego*	15	20	133%
Des Moines	125	138	110%
Birmingham, AL*	135	145	107%
Newark, NJ*	130	138	106%
Twin Cities*	160	169	106%
Miami*	180	189	105%
Seattle*	110	115	105%
Atlanta	115	120	104%
Chicago*	100	104	104%
Los Angeles	120	125	104%
Washington, DC	105	109	104%
San Francisco*	125	129	103%
New York	320	325	102%
Boston	85	86	101%
Albany, NY	10	10	100%
Houston	100	100	100%
Philadelphia	120	120	100%
Pittsburgh	65	56	86%
Detroit	8	4	50%
U.S. Total	2,128	2202	103%
Int'l totals	2,515	2,623	109%
Goal/Should be	2,400	2,400	100%

* raised quota

Continued from front page

turning point of the drive. More than 300 people signed up on May 1, making that week the best of the eight-week effort.

A number of people who signed up then, or at other immigrant rights actions, have been helping to sign up others.

In Belle Glade, Florida, for example, said Maggie Trowe, a garment worker in Miami, "We asked a subscriber if she knew anyone who might be interested in the paper, and she said, 'Everyone here.' We went together to nine houses and sold subscriptions in eight of them to sugar and other farm workers."

"We got a good response wherever we went in the upper Midwest," said Frank Forrestal, a packinghouse worker in Des Moines, Iowa. Many described the conditions they are confronting at their own work sites. "These are people we will definitely keep in touch with," said Forrestal.

Supporters of the paper in Toronto, Canada, made an appeal at a Militant Labor Forum for help in the campaign. One worker, said Beverly Bernardo, a meat packer there, renewed his subscription and took several sub blanks. "Three weeks later he came back with two subscriptions," she said. "Now we want to meet and get to know these new readers."

That can be emulated everywhere.

Fund drive extended 1 week

Continued from front page

jump in first-class mail, already in place, and about 30 percent more for second class, which is how most *Militant* subscriptions are mailed. The latter takes effect July 15.

"These increases, which affect disproportionately smaller publications, especially working-class papers like the *Militant,* mean an extra $6,000 in mailing costs the last half of this year that we didn't anticipate at the start of the fund drive," Malapanis said. "The *Militant* won't increase its subscription rates to make up for the higher shipping costs, so that it remains accessible to all working people. But we need your help to do that."

Another $3,000 is needed to pay for finishing the upgrade of the computer program used to process subscriptions, Malapanis noted. George Fyson, a volunteer in New Zealand, already transferred all *Militant* subs to a new database he streamlined over the last month. But now a license is needed from the software company so that a number of volunteers can use the program at once, allowing the *Militant* to process a large number of subs in a timely way so all new readers can begin getting their paper right away. That cost had not been included in the budget either.

These unforeseen expenses add up to $9,000. Supporters of the paper went over the spring fund drive goal by $4,000 so far. "Let's use next week to raise the additional $5,000 that's needed," Malapanis said. Contacting the 2,600 people who subscribed since the start of the paper's circulation drive can help close the gap.

The final chart will be published next week.

To make a contribution, or augment the funds already donated, make checks payable to the *Militant*, earmarked "Fund Drive," and send them to 306 W. 37th St., 10th Floor, New York, NY 10018.

$100,000 'Militant' Fund Drive
March 31–June 6 ♦ Week 8 of 9

Country	Quota	Paid	%
CANADA	3,500	4,628	132%
NEW ZEALAND	2,800	3,125	112%
ICELAND	450	497	110%
SWEDEN	500	536	107%
AUSTRALIA	1,400	1,460	104%
UNITED KINGDOM			
Edinburgh	400	425	106%
London	1,500	1,545	103%
UK total	1,900	1,970	104%
UNITED STATES			
Detroit	65	100	154%
Des Moines	2,000	2,183	109%
Miami*	3,800	4,036	106%
Birmingham, AL	2,500	2,647	106%
Seattle	7,000	7,268	104%
Twin Cities*	5,500	5,706	104%
Chicago*	5,700	5,880	103%
Newark, NJ*	3,850	3,970	103%
Los Angeles	8,000	8,230	103%
San Francisco*	11,000	11,233	102%
Pittsburgh*	3,800	3,880	102%
Atlanta	6,000	6,085	101%
Houston	3,000	3,030	101%
New York*	15,000	15,128	101%
Washington, D.C.	3,000	3,023	101%
Albany, NY	50	50	100%
Boston	3,800	3,800	100%
Philadelphia*	4,300	4,220	98%
San Diego	500	450	90%
Other		600	
U.S. total	88,865	91,519	103%
FRANCE	300	300	100%
Intl'l totals	99,415	104,035	104%
Goal/Should be	100,000	100,000	100%

* raised quota

Three new Cuban books now available

BY MICHAEL BAUMANN

May 24—Pathfinder Press has announced the arrival of three new books—in English and Spanish—defending the Cuban Revolution.

United States vs. the Cuban Five: A Judicial Cover-up ($22) tells the story of five Cuban revolutionaries living in the United States who were convicted in federal court in Miami in 2001 on trumped-up charges of "conspiracy to commit espionage" for the government of Cuba, "conspiracy to act as an unregistered foreign agent," and, in one case, "conspiracy to commit murder."

PATHFINDER AROUND THE WORLD

Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, René González, Fernando González, and Antonio Guerrero—the Cuban Five, as they are known—were then sentenced to terms ranging from 15 years to double life plus 15 years.

"From start to finish," says author Rodolfo Dávalos Fernández, "the proceedings were tainted, corrupt, null and void, vindictive. Every right of the accused to 'due process of law' was flouted."

The real "crime" of the five, he explains, was keeping the government of Cuba informed of the activities of counterrevolutionary groups in Miami whose record of violent attacks on Cuba carried out from U.S. soil with Washington's knowledge, and on supporters of the Cuban Revolution in the United States, began in the 1960s and continues to this day.

Operation Mongoose: Prelude of a Direct Invasion of Cuba ($18) is a concise history of a covert U.S. program to undermine the Cuban Revolution. Unleashed in April 1961 following the Bay of Pigs defeat of a CIA-organized mercenary invasion of Cuba, "Operation Mongoose" sought to prepare for a direct U.S. invasion the following year.

Attorney General Robert Kennedy called Operation Mongoose a "top priority" for Washington. U.S. agents carried out terror actions that included the murder of more than 70 farmers, teachers, and workers; 4,000 cane field fires; and the bombing of more than 30 civilian targets.

Drawing from formerly secret CIA files and documents made available in Cuba, author Jacinto Valdés-Dapena explains how a determined people with a revolutionary leadership were able to stand and prevail against the world's most powerful military and economic force.

Cuba: The Untold History ($32) documents, with eyewitness reports and hundreds of photos, more than four decades of violent attacks against the Cuban Revolution by the U.S. government—under 10 different presidents. It, too, defends and demands the release of the Cuban Five.

All three books, published in Cuba by Editorial Capitán San Luis, can be ordered online in English and Spanish from pathfinderpress.com.

'Wind that Shakes the Barley': A historically accurate film

BY LARRY QUINN

The opening of Ken Loach's latest movie, *The Wind That Shakes the Barley*, which won the top prize at the Cannes film festival, paints a brutal but historically accurate portrait of Irish history.

After the failure of the 1916 Easter Rebellion, an armed uprising led by Irish nationalists against British colonial rule, most of its leaders were executed or imprisoned. However, as republicans were released from prison they began to reestablish a guerrilla army and become active in politics.

IN REVIEW

A quarter of all Irish men served in the British Army in World War I, and almost 50,000 of them died. Under the impact of this and inspired by the 1917 Russian Revolution, workers began forming councils in many Irish cities—which they named "soviets" after those that were formed during the Russian Revolution. Widespread land seizures also took place in response to the brutality of the British occupiers. By the 1918 election, Sinn Fein, a party advocating Irish national independence, had won 73 of the 105 Irish seats in the English parliament. Its deputies refused to take their seats or pledge loyalty to the Crown. Instead they formed their own parliament in Dublin, called Dáil Éireann, and in 1919 declared independence from Britain. The same year the Irish Volunteers, later renamed the Irish Republican Army (IRA), launched a guerrilla campaign to force Britain out of Ireland. This was the beginning of the 1919–21 Irish War of Independence.

The movie follows the lives of the members of an IRA column in County Cork during the war.

In the opening scene a group of young men are just returning home from playing a game of hurling, which is similar to field hockey. A British auxiliary army unit, known as the Black and Tans because of the color of their uniforms, arrives at their farm. The British troops declare the Irishmen were involved in an illegal gathering. They then beat one young man to death because he insists on answering in the Irish language, refusing to speak English.

The film shows how the Black and Tans quickly gained a reputation for brutality and torture. They retaliated against any IRA attacks by punishing entire communities and murdering suspected IRA and Sinn Fein members or sympathizers.

Dan, who joins the column, was a train driver badly beaten by the Tans for refusing to let them board a train. In what is known as the Munitions of War Strike, the Irish Trade Union Congress had voted in 1920 not to let any armed soldiers on trains or to transport munitions. This strike was inspired by the London dock workers who refused to load munitions on a ship that was to be used against the Bolsheviks, who had led the October 1917 Russian Revolution.

A vignette of a trial organized by republicans in territory they controlled gives a hint of the political and class divisions that would later lead to the Irish Civil War. The court is presided by members of the Cumann na mBan, the IRA's women's organization. During the War of Independence, when an underground government had been established, it was the women who carried out much of the daily work of the councils set up to oppose the British administration.

In the trial, a shopkeeper has accused an elderly woman of not paying her debts to him. But the court rules against the shopkeeper, who was charging her 500 percent interest, and orders him instead to pay the woman £10.

The republicans who will later oppose the treaty with London agree with the court's decision. But those who will go on to support the Irish "Free State" show their class-collaborationist stance by denouncing the verdict and trying to placate the wealthy shopkeeper because his contributions pay for weapons.

The main characters are brothers who wind up on opposite sides. After the British colonizers offered a truce, a treaty was signed in December 1921 establishing a "Free State" comprising the southern 26 counties of Ireland, which were granted sovereignty within the British commonwealth. The accord required all members of the Irish parliament to swear loyalty to the British Crown.

British prime minister David Lloyd George threatened an "immediate and terrible war" if the treaty was not signed.

The bourgeois forces in the republican movement, called the Freestaters, accepted partition of the six northern counties, which remained under British control, while the left wing opposed it. This caused a split in the IRA. The Cumann na mBan was among those denouncing the treaty, after a special convention of the group voted against it 419-63.

The civil war followed, between June 1922 and May 1923. This is where the film closes, as Freestaters begin executing their former comrades-in-arms.

The pro-independence forces could not hold off the might of the Free State army, which by then was collaborating with the British military and the pro-British Loyalists in Northern Ireland. As a result, a cease-fire was called on May 24, 1923.

My ear perked up when I heard the film's hero, Damien, tell his girlfriend, Sinéad, "It's not what you are against, but what you are for that counts." For me that captured the moral of the story—the value of an uncompromising struggle for independence and an end to British colonial rule throughout Ireland.

If you go to see the movie bring some tissues. And remember the brutality of the Black and Tans is not an exception to the rule—it is how imperialism works.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

25 CENTS
THE MILITANT
A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY/PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

June 11, 1982

OAKLAND, Calif.—The National Black Independent Political Party held a speakout here for jobs and affirmative action May 1.

Jonina Abron, NBIPP Central Committee representative, opened the meeting by noting that it was International Workers Day, which marks the struggle for the eight-hour day. She went on to give a brief history of the important role Blacks played in this struggle thorough strikes, demonstrations, and other militant actions.

The NBIPP has launched a national educational campaign for jobs and full employment, with the focus on Black youth. The forum here was sponsored by the Oakland-San Francisco chapter of the NBIPP.

THE MILITANT
PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE
NEW YORK, N.Y. FIVE (5) CENTS

June 10, 1957

Savage fighting in Algeria reached new heights as the French capitalist and social-democratic politicians feverishly haggled about the composition and policy of a new coalition government to replace the fallen Mollet cabinet. News from Algeria made one thing plain—Mollet's policy of "pacification," i.e., trying to crush the Algerian independence movement by military force, was proven a failure.

Moreover, French military operations against fleeing Algerian villagers has led to border clashes with newly-independent Tunisia. French military incursions into Tunisia in pursuit of fleeing Algerians and attacks upon Tunisian troops could bring the Tunisian people into war on the side of their Algerian brothers.

THE MILITANT
Weekly Organ of the Communist League of America [Opposition]

June 11, 1932

Events in Germany are moving with alacrity, the press reports from day to day. The direction of this movement is, as has been pointed out, one that tends to extreme reaction, to the immediate preparation of the scene for the Fascist seizure of power.

It is being confirmed daily that the relation between the Von Papen government and particularly its military backbone—the clique around General Von Schleicher—toward the Hitler party is one of a herald to a conqueror.

The Reichstag has been dissolved and new elections are scheduled for July 31. Secret negotiations are also in process to reestablish the Nazi Storm Troops as order of the day for the Von Papen government, the government that is clearing the road for Fascism.

Alabama civil rights case reopened after 42 years

BY TAMAR ROSENFELD

ANNISTON, Alabama, May 21—The reopening of a civil rights–era case after 42 years has been front-page news here for a week.

In 1965, a 26-year-old Black man, Jimmie Lee Jackson, was killed by an Alabama state trooper when police savagely attacked a civil rights march in Marion, Alabama. Nothing happened to the cop at the time, when it was common for Klansmen and police in the South to terrorize and often kill African Americans or other protesters for civil rights, and for all-white juries to acquit the perpetrators.

Two years ago, James Bonard Fowler, the former police officer responsible in this case, admitted publicly in an interview with the *Anniston Star* that he had indeed shot Jackson. John Fleming, the *Star*'s editor-at-large, wrote at the time, "Speaking on the record for the first time, the former trooper, while showing scant remorse in describing the events of Feb. 18, 1965, says he doesn't fear the possibility of prosecution."

Fowler's coarse stance was an affront to Blacks and other working people here. He expected impunity, but misread the situation. Weeks before Fleming's interview, Mississippi Ku Klux Klansman Edgar Ray Killen was arrested for helping to organize the 1964 slayings of three civil rights workers.

It took two more years, but on May 9 Fowler was indicted on murder charges by a grand jury in Marion.

Fight for voting rights

Jackson was a young working farmer who grew up in Marion. He was active in the mass movement for Black freedom, especially the fight for voting rights. He had tried to register to vote five times.

On the evening of Feb. 18, 1965, Jackson participated in a civil rights meeting. The gathering turned into a night march. In an orderly fashion, hundreds of protesters filed out of the church where the meeting was held. They came face-to-face with a phalanx of cops, including 50 state troopers dispatched to break up the action, and a growing mob of white racists. Someone then switched off the street lights and the cops set upon every protester in reach with their billy clubs.

News reporters, who had been instructed by the police to use "no lights that might temporarily blind or otherwise interfere with our work," were attacked by the mob and their cameras destroyed so that no photographic record of the attack would exist.

The cops followed people as they ran for cover, like the group that fled to nearby Mack's Café. The May 10, 2007, *Anniston Star* recounts what happened then: "The cafe operator said 82-year-old Cager Lee was clubbed to the floor along with his daughter, Viola Jackson, whose son, Jimmie Lee Jackson, was shot trying to help them." Jackson then ran outside, where the cops clubbed him down.

The young man died eight days later due to massive infection. The infection was probably worsened by delays in treatment. The admitting nurse told the *New York Times* that she understood Jackson had been turned away from the first place he was carried—Perry County Hospital in Marion—"because he was a Negro." He ended up in a Catholic hospital in Selma "operated primarily for Negroes."

Thousands turned out for Jackson's funeral. A banner was draped over the entrance to the chapel that read, "Racism killed our brother."

Outrage over Jackson's death sparked a mass march from nearby Selma to Montgomery, the state capital, to press the demand for voting rights for Blacks. The first attempt to get to Montgomery was met with a cop riot that became known as "Bloody Sunday." That time the cameras were rolling and images flashed across the world as marchers were beaten viciously.

But the struggle continued, and the federal Voting Rights Act was signed into law six months later, on Aug. 6, 1965.

Cover-up

From his hospital bed, Jackson gave a statement about the shooting to his lawyer in the presence of FBI agents. His statement was not made public at the time and has never been seen since. If the FBI or local investigators wrote a report, it was filed without action being taken.

The local prosecutor, Blanchard McLeod, told the *New York Times* at the time that he had a signed statement from the man who shot Jackson. McLeod refused to identify the shooter, saying he would turn over the results of his "investigation" to the Perry County grand jury, which in turn declined to indict anyone.



AP

March 1, 1965, funeral of Jimmy Lee Jackson, a young Black man killed by a state trooper during a police riot in Marion, Alabama. Behind hearse are (from left) John Lewis of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, and Ralph Abernathy, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Andrew Young of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

The cop involved, Fowler, claimed that Jackson tried to remove the trooper's gun from his holster, and he fired the fatal shot in self-defense.

But no investigation was carried out to bring Jackson's killer to justice. As a matter of fact, while Jackson was in his hospital bed, he was served an arrest warrant.

In the aftermath of the cop attack on the February 18 march, the Alabama state senate showed their support for the all-white police force by denouncing any charges of negligence against the troopers who brutalized and killed in Marion.

Fowler killed again before voluntarily leaving the force in 1968. His next victim was Nathan Johnson, Jr., a Black prisoner in Alabaster city jail. According to the *Selma Times Journal*, "Fowler said the man [Johnson] attempted to take his weapon—similar to what troopers reported happened in the case of Jimmie Lee inside Mack's Café the year before."

Since 1989, authorities in seven states have reexamined 30 killings from the civil rights era. They have made 29 arrests and obtained 22 convictions so far.

Indicting Jackson's killer is only the first step in this case. Fowler will have to be deemed competent to stand trial. A jury will have to be picked. A trial will have to be held. Many witnesses are deceased. But the case is back in the news and that has sparked interest in getting to the bottom of countless other cases of racist killings that have yet to be investigated.

Tamar Rosenfeld is a sewing machine operator in Anniston, Alabama, and a member of UNITE HERE Local 1021-C.

N.Y. home day care workers win right to unionize

BY EDDIE BECK

NEW YORK, May 22—After a two-year fight, about 60,000 home-based day care workers who take care of children in their own homes won the right to unionize in New York State.

Often working 10 hours a day or longer without breaks, home-based day care workers don't receive healthcare benefits, pensions, vacation, or sick pay. There are 28,000 such workers in New York City.

"Last week, I was so sick. I told them that I have the flu, that I couldn't take the kids, but I got the kids anyway," Adriana Alvarez told the *Militant* yesterday. She was referring to Hartley House, a non-profit group that manages city funds subsidizing child care, and from which she receives part of her income. Alvarez takes care of five children in Manhattan. "I called the parents, but there was nothing they could do because they had to work," she said.

Median income for home-based day care workers nationally was about $8 an hour in 2004.

On May 17, the United Federation of Teachers (UFT) submitted 12,000 signatures of home child–care workers in New York City seeking unionization. The signatures account for 43 percent of the workers, higher than the 30 percent required to trigger a union representation vote.

"Oh boy was I excited!" Melvina Van Dross, 61, a day care worker for 19 years in the Bronx, told the *Militant* today. "Many people said it couldn't be done, but going around, knocking on doors, everyone was like, 'Where do I sign?' And who would have thought there were 28,000 of us!"

Van Dross said the organizing fight has been going on for two years. Even though most home-based day care workers are paid by government subsidies and clients assigned to them by private agencies, they are considered "independent contractors." As such they are deprived protection of the federal National Labor Relations Act (NLRA), which allows unionization, and the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), which mandates minimum wage and overtime pay.

Nannies are considered "domestic servants" and are also deprived of NLRA and FLSA protections.

After repeated protests by workers, New York governor Eliot Spitzer signed an executive order May 8 recognizing their right to unionize.

"The executive order allows them the right to union representation," said UFT spokesman Ron Davis in an interview today. The UFT is seeking to organize these workers in New York City. "We'll be bargaining with the state of New York for better pay and benefits."

The Civil Service Employees Association is conducting similar organizing drives elsewhere in the state.

Alvarez said she felt "great" about the victory. "I would love to join the union," she said.

Georgia workers respond to raid

Continued from front page

tion by the government or employers.

Adelaida, a young coworker from Chiapas, Mexico, said *la migra* came pounding on her doors and windows with flashlights shining. The cops came in and asked her if her baby was "from here." She said yes. The cops left Adelaida and proceeded to take three men from the trailer—her brother, her brother-in-law, and a friend.

In another trailer, Ricardo, a lumber yard worker, said two roommates were arrested, handcuffed, and shackled before being put into one of the police vans.

Day laborers waiting for work on a street corner and people walking in the trailer park were also arrested, workers said.

People spent three days tracking down family members and friends before learning that they were taken to a detention center in Atlanta and that at least some were moved to Alabama to await deportation. They were given a choice between spending four or five months in jail awaiting a court appearance or being deported immediately.

For several days, cops have been active in the area, setting up roadblocks or checkpoints and asking workers passing by for documents.

The local press has not reported these sweeps and arrests.

"People come here out of necessity," said Senía, a young Wal-Mart worker from Honduras. "If I could have the same job in my country, I wouldn't come here and leave my family. A lot of American people don't think of Hispanics sympathetically. They think we are going to take their jobs, but we aren't taking their jobs. If they helped us, we could make things better together."

The police have been trying to justify

Continued on page 9

Imperialists use Estonia crisis to push military encirclement of Russia

BY DAG TIRSÉN

STOCKHOLM, Sweden, May 25—Riots broke out in Tallinn, Estonia, at the end of April after the government of the former Soviet republic ordered a monument to Russian soldiers who died in World War II removed from the center of the city.

The controversy reflected deeper tensions in the region as Washington and its imperialist allies expand NATO, the U.S.-led transatlantic military alliance, and tighten the military encirclement of Russia.

When Estonia was a part of the Soviet Union the monument was the republic's official site for commemorating the Red Army victory over the German military on May 9, 1945. In recent years the anniversary has become a gathering point for Red Army veterans and other Russians.

The Estonian parliament decided in March, with the support of Prime Minister Andrus Ansip, to move the statue. On the night of April 26 unrest broke out around the statue. The police intervened and 40 protesters were wounded and one killed. The next night the monument was removed. This sparked new clashes. Many stores were looted; 70 people were wounded and 600 arrested.

Many of the protesters were from the Russian minority in Estonia, which makes up about 28 percent of the population. Most are not Estonian citizens and don't have the right to vote. Unemployment among these Russians is higher than average. "When the police pushed us away from the monument Thursday night, 15 years of feelings of discrimination exploded," Juri Zuravljov, of the pro-Moscow Constitutional Party, told the media.

Moscow reacted sharply at the statue's removal. The upper house of Russia's parliament voted to break diplomatic relations with Estonia. Moscow halted rail traffic to Estonia and cancelled the delivery of coal and oil.

Estonia's embassy in Moscow was besieged by protests from members of Nasji, the youth group of Russian president Vladimir Putin's party.



AP/Timur Nezametdinov

Police in riot gear use tear gas and batons April 26 to disperse people in Tallinn, Estonia, protesting the removal of the Bronze Soldier, a Soviet-era monument.

Washington, NATO officials in Brussels, and the European Union (EU) commission issued statements supporting Estonia's government. Instructed by Swedish foreign minister Carl Bildt, Sweden's ambassador in Moscow visited Estonia's embassy to show Stockholm's support. He was involved in an incident with the Russian protesters outside, which in turn prompted a protest from Stockholm.

A week later the statue was reerected at a military grave yard, where the May 9 commemorative ceremonies could be held. Moscow then resumed oil shipments to Estonia.

The conflict contributed to the failure of a summit in Samara, Russia, between EU leaders and Putin. The governments of Lithuania, Poland, and Estonia—all EU members—blocked renewal of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement, an EU-Russian trade accord that had expired.

Behind the conflict lies increasing tensions between imperialist powers, led by Washington, and Moscow. Since the 1997 NATO summit in Madrid, Washington has been building up its military presence in Eastern Europe and former Soviet republics.

Over the last decade, the governments of all three Baltic states—Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania—along with those of Bulgaria, Romania, Slovakia, Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, and Slovenia have joined NATO.

Putin harshly criticized this expansion in a February 10 speech in Munich, Germany. The admission of these countries into NATO has nothing to do with "modernization of the alliance" and is a "serious provocation that reduces the level of mutual trust," the Russian president said. "It turns out that NATO has put its frontline forces on our borders, and we have the right to ask: against whom is this expansion directed?"

Putin also criticized construction by Washington of "forward operating" military bases in Romania and Bulgaria, with similar plans being pursued in Poland and Hungary. He attacked U.S. plans for placing "missile defense" components, such as radars, in Eastern Europe.

On May 24 the Pentagon began formal negotiations with the Polish government to place 10 missile interceptors in the country as part of the U.S. anti-ballistic missile shield. Radar installations used as part of the shield are to be placed in the Czech Republic. In addition, the government of the former Soviet republic of Georgia, where Moscow still maintains military bases, announced it wants to host part of the shield.

A few weeks after the Estonia riots, NATO's yearly naval exercise took place in the Baltic Sea. This year's was the largest since the end of the Cold War. The governments of Sweden and Finland, which have announced their intention to join NATO's Rapid Reaction Force, took part in the maneuvers.

Finland's new defense minister recently stated that joining NATO was in his country's interest, which provoked a sharp reaction from Moscow. Gen. Valerij Manilov, adviser to the president of the upper house of the Russian parliament, said Finnish membership in NATO would mean risks for the country. Russian troops would have to be reinforced along the Finnish border, he said. "We would be forced to take all necessary measures to defend the security of the country."

Russia: boss productivity drive kills 39 miners

BY DOUG NELSON

WASHINGTON, May 29—The insatiable drive for profit at the expense of workers' safety caused another mine disaster in Russia, this time claiming the lives of 39 coal miners and highlighting worsening job conditions. Inspectors denounced the company after the blast for "serious breaches" of safety.

On May 24 a methane gas explosion ripped through the Yubileynaya mine, in the country's south-central district of Kemerovo. It took place just two months after 110 workers died in a similar explosion at the Ulyanovskaya mine, 25 miles away. Both mines are operated by Yuzhkuzbassugol Joint Stock Company.

The French Press Agency and other media reported that 194 miners and 23 engineering inspectors were working underground on the day shift at the Yubileynaya mine at the time of the blast. The bodies of 38 miners were pulled from the mine and six others were injured that day, according to the Regnum news agency. Of the wounded, one died in the hospital three days later, and another remains in critical condition.

The day of the explosion, news accounts said scores of distraught relatives stood in the rain outside the mine office, scouring an initial list of the victims hanging on the wall.

According to Alexander Sergeyev, chairman of the Independent Trade Union of Miners, coal miners in the country count on production bonuses rather than hourly wages for a majority of their income. This system puts pressure on workers to "work hastily and ignore possible dangers" in order to make a living, Sergeyev said.

Under pressure from the workers and their union following the Ulyanovskaya catastrophe in March, the company had reportedly restructured the form of payment to reduce the proportion of miners' wages tied to productivity.



Reuters

Coal miners outside Yubileynaya Mine in Siberia where 39 died after a May 24 methane blast. Another 110 miners died earlier at a nearby mine operated by the same company.

An investigation into the cause of the blast, the outcome of which could result in the suspension or revocation of the company's license, is being conducted by the country's industrial safety and environmental protection agencies.

Officials of Rostekhnadzor, the Russian industrial safety agency, said its inspectors had twice applied to have the mine closed for safety violations, but were blocked by local courts. The agency released a statement saying it had only been able to shut down sections of the mine for a limited time, which "included shaft 15-16," where the May 24 explosion erupted.

Yuzhkuzbassugol, which runs 12 mines and extracts 18 percent of Russia's coal, is 50 percent owned by three of its top managers, who are said to have operational control. The other half is held by Evraz Group, which owns steel mills, and coal, vanadium, and iron ore mines around the world. Evraz appears to be taking advantage of the disaster to wrest, at a steep discount, the half of the company its shareholders had previously refused to sell.

Local officials back the move. Immediately after the blast, Kemerovo governor Aman Tuleyev said on television, "We are now posing the question that there should be a change of owner and management." After the company's top managers agreed to sell their shares, Tuleyev "hurried to underline the purely natural causes of the accident and the lack of grounds for a revocation of the company's license," before any investigation is completed, reported the Russian daily *Kommersant.*

Evraz Group is 41 percent owned by the billionaire Roman Abramovich, Russia's richest man, according to *Forbes.* Abramovich acquired his wealth by snatching up oil and aluminum assets cheaply during Russia's chaotic privatization following the collapse of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s. He is the current governor of the far eastern region of Chukotka—an example of the close ties between Moscow and many private employers. Abramovich also owns the Chelsea Football Club, a London-based soccer team, and Stamford Bridge stadium in London.

How imperialism underdevelops small countries

Below is an excerpt from Maurice Bishop Speaks. *This collection of speeches by Grenada's prime minister during the 1979–83 revolution in that small English-speaking Caribbean country is one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month in June. The excerpt is from an address by Bishop to the Organization of American States Conference on the Development Problems of Small Island States, held in St. George's, Grenada, July 13, 1981. In 1983 the workers and farmers government there was overthrown by a Stalinist-inspired coup led by Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard. This betrayal in which Bishop, the central leader of the revolution, was murdered opened the door to a U.S. military invasion which installed a pro–U.S. regime. Copyright © 1983 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.*



Rally in Grenada in 1980 to protest U.S. imperialist threats against the revolution

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY MAURICE BISHOP

Distinguished guests; Sisters and brothers; Comrades:

It is a great pleasure for me even at such short notice—in fact, about one hour's notice—to have the opportunity of addressing this very important conference this morning.

You should have been hearing Comrade Bernard Coard, our deputy prime minister and minister of finance and planning, but unfortunately Comrade Coard has not been enjoying the best of health in the last few days and as much as he would have liked to be here this morning, he just could not make it. I express his regrets and his best wishes to you.

Comrades, the question before us during this conference will be the question of the problems of small island and other developing states.

The problem of smallness of economies, land sizes, and resources of developing Third World countries like Grenada is a problem which has been addressed on several occasions by several eminent people over the years.

It is a matter that has been looked at exhaustively in the United Nations, in the Organization of American States, the Nonaligned Movement, and at several other international forums. But it is a matter which has not lost its importance and I am sure you will agree that there are several ways in which the subject can be approached.

My approach this morning will aim fundamentally; not at looking once again at the numerous structural problems which small countries like ours face, but at trying to look underneath that, to see what are the underlying realities, what are the real reasons for the difficulties that small developing Third World states, which are very often also nonaligned states, have to face.

My own approach this morning will probably not be an entirely orthodox one, but we feel very strongly that this approach is nonetheless a valid and indeed the correct one.

We contend, comrades, that the real problem is not the question of smallness per se, but the real problem is the question of imperialism. The real problem that countries like ours face is that on a day-to-day basis we come up against an international system that is organized and geared towards ensuring the continuing exploitation, domination, and rape of our economies, our countries, and our peoples. That, to us, is the fundamental problem.

We certainly can see that if, even briefly, we look at the history of exploitation of countries like ours; this will give us a clearer idea as to why we in Grenada maintain this position…

The real problem is that United States imperialism, the United States ruling class, has always wanted to rule the world, has always wanted to grab everybody's land, has always wanted to grab everybody's resources; and that, with every shift in the balance of forces in the world, they have had to come up with new techniques, they have had to shift their tactics, they have had to move to overt action, like the landing of marines, to covert action—like the development of economic, propaganda, and mercenary techniques of destabilization and aggression. To us these are the real problems.

To us, therefore, in Grenada, while we are very, very happy to welcome you all, while we certainly look forward with great anticipation to the technical results of your conference, we nonetheless issue this caveat from the beginning, that if this conference were to produce yet again only more documentation of a technical character, emphasizing the usual structural difficulties which small countries like ours face, then the conference would not have achieved enough. For this conference to be truly successful, to be really meaningful to the people of the region and people of the Third World who find themselves in these difficulties, we must begin to show a new way forward by addressing what is the underlying and substantial cause of the problem that countries like ours face; and that problem is not the fact of smallness per se. That problem is the fact of imperialism.

I therefore formally declare open your conference and wish you the very best in your deliberations. I certainly hope that you will find the time during the period which you have in our country to enjoy our modest hospitality, to experience the warmth and friendliness of our people, and to feel and see the beauty of our country, and to see for yourselves the popular participation of our people in the new process that we are struggling to build.

Thank you very much. *[Applause]*

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EDITORIAL

Lift all sanctions against Sudan

Lift all sanctions against Sudan! Imperialist and United Nations troops out of the country, now! That should be the response of working people around the world to Washington's announcement of more punitive measures against this African country.

Under the cloak of "peacekeeping," the U.S. and British rulers are pressing to reinforce the 10,000 UN troops in southern Sudan with another 22,000 troops in the western region of Darfur. The real purpose of these forces—as has been the case with all UN-sponsored military interventions, from Congo to Korea to Haiti—is to safeguard the profit interests of Washington, London, and other imperialist powers.

The tightened sanctions are not only designed to put the squeeze on Sudan economically. They are punishment for Khartoum's failure to fall in line with Washington's global "war on terror." The Sudanese government sided with Saddam Hussein's regime in the 1991 U.S.-led war in Iraq. It voted at the UN to condemn Israeli aggression against the Palestinians and maintained close ties with the then "rogue" regime in Libya. In 1998 the Clinton administration bombed Sudan's capital to destroy an alleged "chemical weapons" factory, which proved to be a pharmaceutical plant.

"Fighting terrorism" is the banner Washington uses to lead its imperialist allies in a long war against any government that doesn't bow to the dictates of finance capital. It's a war that ultimately targets working people—abroad and at home.

The U.S. and British governments hypocritically charge the regime in Khartoum with organizing an "ongoing genocide" against the peoples of Sudan's Darfur region, playing on the just revulsion of millions at the atrocities the Sudanese government has had its hand in. But these are crocodile tears by Washington, London, and their imperialist allies. These civilized hyenas have plundered Africa, fostered divisions to keep its countries as semicolonies, and have been brutally occupying Afghanistan and Iraq, costing the lives of thousands of civilians each month.

Prominent Democrats and other backers of the reactionary "Save Darfur" campaign give cover to imperialist intervention in Sudan by calling the new sanctions "too little, too late."

For more than a century the dominant imperialist powers have promoted divisions in Sudan by language, religion, national origin, and geography—pitting one group of the population against another. These divisions have fueled a decades-long civil war.

The imperialist powers have no interest in and are incapable of overcoming these conditions, through which they rob the wealth Sudanese toilers produce and plunder the country's oil and other natural resources. Only Sudan's workers, peasants, and other exploited produces can develop the leadership they deserve and liberate themselves. They need to get the imperialist troops and sanctions off their backs to have a chance.

MSHA won't cite bosses for Sago disaster

Continued from front page

or for any of the 149 safety violations the agency found in its Sago inquiry.

"I can't tell where the coal company ends and MSHA begins," Deborah Hamner, widow of Sago miner George Junior Hamner, told the *Charleston Gazette,* after a May 10 meeting where MSHA officials described their findings to the relatives of the workers who perished.

"They are so focused on the lightning issue that they have just pushed everything else aside," Pam Campbell, the sister-in-law of Sago miner Marty Bennett, told the *Gazette.* She was referring to ICG and MSHA's insistence that lightning ignited the blast.

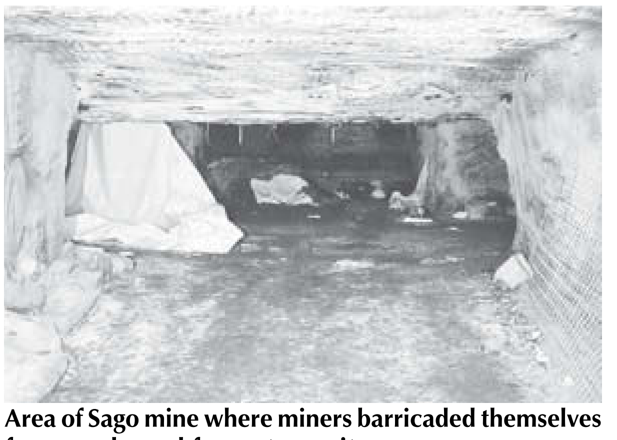
Geraldine Bruso, brother of Sago miner Jerry Groves, told the *Associated Press* that "lightning didn't kill our guys. It was the rescue, the equipment, the whole breakdown of the system."

Twelve miners died at Sago, a nonunion mine, following a Jan. 2, 2006, methane explosion. Eleven of the miners who perished were trapped underground and slowly succumbed to carbon monoxide. A twelfth miner who was with them, Randal McCloy, survived.

United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) president Cecil Roberts said the MSHA report does not contradict the union's contention that "it was the conditions inside the mine at the time of the ignition that caused the 12 men to die."

An editorial published in the May 21 *Charleston Gazette* said MSHA's failure to cite ICG "seems odd," and quoted the agency's director Richard Stickler as saying, "I would conclude that safety was not a top priority at this operation."

Until that disaster, seals of the type used at Sago to block off unused sections of the mine, where methane



Area of Sago mine where miners barricaded themselves from smoke and fumes to await rescue

gas builds up, were only required to withstand a blast of 20 pounds per square inch. On May 18, MSHA announced additional regulations, increasing the standards for the seals and calling for monitoring of gas levels. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) estimates that there are 14,000 substandard seals in U.S. mines today. These include 8,000–9,000 seals made of the light-weight Omega block used at Sago, and also at the Darby mine in Kentucky, where five miners were killed after an explosion in May 2006.

Meanwhile, the UMWA has been involved in two organizing efforts in southern West Virginia mines this spring. At the Progress Coal Company, a Massey Energy Company subsidiary in Boone County, a union representation vote was defeated 180-110 in mid-April. Another vote at the Brody Mine, also in Boone County, was frozen in early May by the National Labor Relations Board after UMWA complaints of unfair labor practices by the company.

LETTERS

'Harlan County, USA'

Thanks for continuing to cover the international miners struggle. *Militant* readers may be interested in the most recent DVD version of *Harlan County, USA,* a documentary about the fight of miners in eastern Kentucky in the mid–1970s for the right to be represented by the United Mine Workers of America. The struggle against the Duke Power Company was intense, and the movie may be the best labor film ever produced.

The DVD has some extra material from a panel discussion with the director, Barbara Kopple, and film critic Roger Ebert at the 2005 Sundance Film Festival, during which two coal miners fighting for a union at the Co-Op mine in Utah discuss their struggle. It is noted that the Utah struggle was led by Spanish-speaking workers.

The self-reliance, militancy, and solidarity of the labor movement during both strikes are an inspiration to all working people from Russia and China to Utah and Kentucky.

Mike Lux
New York, New York

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of interest to working people. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

Ohio ICE raid

Continued from front page

relatives of those arrested described abuses by immigration cops and denounced the raids. Some passing motorists honked in support, while others made anti-immigrant comments, reported the Associated Press.

When word got out about the raid dozens of immigrant workers and their families packed St. Mary's basement in response.

ICE spokespeople said the raid was "targeted enforcement" aimed at individuals with immigration violations and criminal records.

Veronica Dahlberg, director of Hispanas Organizadas de Lake y Ashtabula, said they didn't just target people with deportation orders.

"They are taking innocent people," a 27-year-old airplane parts worker in Mentor, Ohio, told the *Militant* May 27. He asked to remain anonymous for fear of retaliation by the labor contractor he works for.

Pointing to the lawsuit leather workers in New Bedford, Massachusetts, recently filed against Michael Bianco Inc. for robbing them of overtime pay (see last week's issue), he said, "They do the same thing where we work." There are about 500 workers at two plants, working 13-hour days six or seven days a week, and "if you try to leave early, they say you can but we'll fire you." The boss fired about 50 employees who didn't come to work May 21, the day after the Painesville raid, he added.

An estimated 8,000-10,000 immigrants, the majority from Mexico, live in Lake and Ashtabula counties. Most of them work in nurseries in eastern Lake County, where Painesville is located.

"People just come here to work, then all they do is work," said Sara Sánchez, 65. "You go in very early and get home at 9 p.m. and you're so tired."

Teresa Sandoval, 44, a plastics factory worker, expressed a similar view speaking to the *Militant* outside a store here. She said she agreed with a woman she saw interviewed on TV who said something like, "Back in Mexico they say this is the country of dreams. Yes, it is. But we work so much, we're always dreaming."

A number of workers interviewed also expressed opposition to the immigration bill recently introduced in the Senate. "Where will people get the $5,000?" asked Sánchez, referring to the fee immigrants seeking legal status would have to pay under this bill. "We're poor. We need a solution without having to pay that. I have papers, but I still think legalization is important to fight for. There are many people suffering and many people not going to work out of fear."

In Butterfield, Missouri, ICE and Social Security Administration agents raided a poultry plant owned by George's Processing Inc. May 22. They arrested 136 workers who were supposedly undocumented. At least one person was charged with Social Security fraud, and another with falsely claiming to be a U.S. citizen to obtain employment, an ICE press release said.

Meanwhile, a vigil was held May 26 in Pueblo, Colorado, to protest the arrests of 20–25 people there by ICE last week.

Róger Calero contributed to this article.

Georgia ICE raid

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their actions by spreading unsubstantiated rumors. At the BBI sewing plant there is widespread discussion on why the raids happened. An African American worker said she had heard the police were telling people that there were a lot of Mexican boys riding around, looking to kill Black women.

Another U.S.-born worker said she heard that the sheriffs had posted a warning on the internet that Latino gangs were selling poisonous perfume to unsuspecting young women in the parking lot of stores like Wal-Mart. She added she did not know what website it was posted on. A third worker pointed out that no news media has reported such a story so far.

"It's not possible to do these things to workers like they did," said Yadira, another BBI worker, referring to the raid and to the conduct of the cops. "These people did absolutely nothing to deserve this. It's a crime."

Ellie García contributed to this article.